



## Universe Born in a Vortex?

What do whirlpools, tornadoes, DNA and galaxies have in common?

Electromagnetism, not gravity, may be the original and dominant force in the universe - which may have been formed in a massive spiral vortex, according to new supercomputer research.

The work of theoretical physicist Anthony Peratt of the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico challenges Einstein's General Theory of Relativity as an explanation of the evolution of the universe. His studies (and those of astronomers worldwide) on electricity's role in weaving galaxies into spirals suggest the evolution of a galaxy is a smaller-scale version of the events and forces present when our universe was born.

"That's a fundamental new concept," Peratt said.

### CLUES IN THE VORTEX

"Vortices are important in nature from the smallest imaginable to the largest. Water draining from a bathtub forms a vortex. Vortices are morphologies (structures) that can be seen everywhere."

Peratt's studies show that threads millions of light years long form from cosmic plasma - hot electrically-charged gas that pervades the universe in the 'fourth state of matter'.

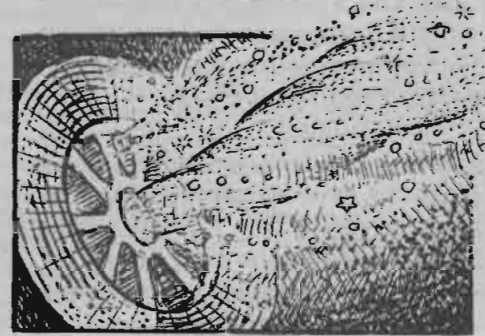
These plasma threads are powerful energy sources and as electricity flows through them magnetic whirlwinds are formed, Peratt says.

Over billions of years these highly charged threads, twisting in an awesome cosmic vortex, suck in particles, dust and other matter and break into galaxies.

"Using a supercomputer we were able to take some of these currents and simulate them. We scaled them up to galactic dimensions," Peratt said.

20th century science has viewed gravity as the main force in the birth of the universe, but Peratt and his team believe that electromagnetism formed the cosmos and galaxies - and a universe shaped by electromagnetism doesn't require a "Big Bang" to begin.

- United Press International



## UK Scientists Die for Defence

Is a series of strange deaths of British defense experts continuing with the apparent suicide of another scientist?

Mr Trevor Knight, a 52-year old computer specialist working for leading defence contractor Marconi, was found dead in his fume-filled car in March. He is the fifth Marconi employee and the eighth British defence specialist to die in unusual circumstances in recent years.

A police spokesperson said Mr Knight's work was "not in a secret defence classified sector" and that he had been "incorrectly connected" with the other deaths. He had earlier been described as a 'missile guidance expert' by the British press.

Computer science Professor Keith Bowden died when his car plunged onto a disused Essex railway line in 1986; then other experts were found dead after road accidents. One scientist was found under a car with the engine running and another fell from a bridge. Marconi computer designer Richard Pugh's death remains unexplained. Other deaths involved hanging and drugs; yet another scientist attempted suicide and one is still missing.

- Reuter & Agence France-Press



## 'Rare Earth' Rarer

The \$7 million proposal to establish a 'rare earth' plant - actually a radioactive mineral processing mill - at Tuncester near Lismore, seems to have been pole-axed at last.

Commissioners William Simpson and Kevin Cleland advised Lismore Council to refuse the development after examining the proposal, saying that proposed on-site storage of nuclear waste was unsatisfactory and radioactive emissions would harm the environment.

Residents from all walks of life united in opposing the plant, which would have exposed the region (and local primary industries) to radioactive pollutants - while providing jobs for a handful of people for only twenty years.

## Feral First for Public TV

A group calling itself Feral Television broadcast its programmes over Channel 0 Melbourne's frequency in February, interrupting normal station broadcasts with pre-recorded material including video clips.

The broadcasts were screened for short periods at irregular intervals, possibly from a van.

Ms Jenny Wilkins, a spokeswoman for a licensed community TV group called Television Unlimited (TV U), - which recently began Melbourne UHF test broadcasts - suggested Feral TV pirated the airwaves because of frustration at delays in establishing a public TV network.

Sydney's Metro Television is hoping to begin UHF test broadcasts later this year, possibly transmitting from the Ultimo University of Technology to reach most of the inner suburbs.

"There is a large amount of independent films and video that is never properly screened which we could show," said Metro chairman Mr Greg Hoy.

# Every Baby Needs Some Body

The age-old practice of sleeping with newborn babies has found fresh support.

"In all known human societies other than our own Western industrialised culture, the mother and infant sleep in the same bed," says Dr Melvin J. Konner, psychiatrist and anthropologist at Atlanta's Emory University in the US.

"The same is true of our closest non-human relatives, monkeys and chimps. So from an evolutionary and anthropological perspective, it would appear that isolated sleeping is not natural for the human infant."

Dr Konner and others point out that human infants - the most physically immature of all primates - are the only ones expected to sleep alone. This is a recent phenomenon. Throughout most of human history and cultures, babies have slept with their mothers.

Some researchers believe that putting newborns in a separate room - common only in industrial societies - may contribute to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), or cot death. But evidence for this remains largely circumstantial.

## Contact Evolution

"For three to four million years, the human infant evolved to expect direct parental contact during the night," says James J. McKenna, anthropologist and psychologist at Pomona College in California, who links separate sleeping quarters with SIDS.

"That means the breathing and sleep systems of the very immature human infant evolved in the context of a rich variety of sensory cues from the parent."

Infants deprived of physical contact but otherwise well cared for are often psychologically or physically stunted. Recent studies show that frequent parental touch stimulates infant growth.

Some medical authorities dismiss all this as speculation. But one dramatic study by researchers at the University of Miami Medical School found that light massage of premature babies three times a day caused them to gain weight 47% faster than those left alone in incubators.

- Knight Ridder Newspapers



## To Tan or Not to Tan?

Ten minutes of sunshine a day can help fortify the body against certain cancers, according to US research.

To benefit from sunshine you have to be exposed to the right type - and beneficial wavelengths of ultraviolet (U.V.) light in sunlight can be filtered out by pollutants like sulphur dioxide, which enshroud most industrial cities.

"What we are showing is that cancers of the colon and breast may be vitamin D deficiency diseases in adults," one of the University of California scientists said.

Dr Robin Marks, the Victorian Anti-Cancer Council's education director, reports that the effect of UV light in helping the skin produce vitamin D is well known - but Australian sunlight is so strong it can penetrate the veil of pollution which hangs over big cities, so Australians should treat the US study cautiously. Australia has a higher level of UV light than Europe or the United States.

Increases in damaging forms of ultraviolet light from ozone depletion are another danger here during spring. But if you can't get enough vitamin D from sunlight it's also available in dairy and other foods.

## Homœopathic Radiation

"Over 1,000 scientific reports have now been published which indicate small doses of radiation can have a hormetic effect," according to Mr Keith Brown of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission.

Hormesis is the stimulation of an organism by non-toxic amounts of a known toxin. This is the basis of homœopathy.

"The best known example is the stimulatory effect of low levels of radiation on the germination of seeds and the growth of plants.

"Other beneficial effects reported in both plants and animals include improved fertility, increased lifespan, prevention of tumours and increased resistance to infection."

Mr Brown said research indicates that people who live at high altitudes die of cancer less often than those who live at sea level. This has been attributed by some researchers to 'cosmic rays', from the surrounding universe and from naturally occurring radioactive minerals in the planet's crust and biosphere.

'Hormetic' - or relatively low-intensity radiation - may be essential for organic functioning; but there is no safe level for all organisms.

# NEXUS NEWS

## THE PEOPLE VS 2,4-D



**"We just ran. We had to."**

A Murwillumbah woman has succeeded for a fifth time in temporarily stopping her local council from spraying 2,4-D on the land where she lives.

Ms Diane Rundle is taking legal action against Tweed Shire Council, which owns the land, and the Far North Coast County Council, saying the sprays have harmed her health and the environment.

She lives with her two children in a rented house on 400ha of land at Byrrell Creek in the 'Rainbow Region' and has won successive court injunctions preventing the council from spraying since late last year, when her hearing was first adjourned. The council is currently prohibited from spraying until July 21st.

### "A Very Toxic Dose"

In Emu Plains in Sydney's West, Telecom and the Commonwealth are being sued over suburban 2,4-D spraying.

Mr Nedeljko Macic lost all his teeth, his mother-in-law lost clumps of hair and his 14-year old daughter Jenny breaks out in red sores whenever she contacts chemicals. The family claims the toxic weedicide, sprayed on adjacent land, has caused permanent physical and mental damage to the parents and four children.

The Macics built their house next door to a Telecom substation in Russell St, Emu Plains in 1980.

"It started with a rash, vomiting, headaches and red, sore eyes" in 1981,

says Mr Macic. Then family members began losing hair and teeth, a pet German shepherd went deaf and blind, lost its hair and died and the children's pet pigeons were born deformed - with no wings, two beaks or one leg. Garden plants and trees died and the younger children have had learning difficulties, headaches, dizzy spells and, in the case of 13-year old Bobby, stunted growth; he could be mistaken for a nine-year old.

The family moved to Queanbeyan in 1984.

"We just ran," said Mr Macic. "We had to." He took soil samples to his native Yugoslavia where Dr Vaskrsija Janjic - of the Institute of Pesticides and Environmental Protection at the University of Belgrade - tested the soil and announced that "very high amounts of 2,4-D" (up to 300 times higher than would be found if the chemical had been applied as recommended) were present. These massive amounts would cause anyone living in such conditions for one month to "inhale... a very toxic dose of 2,4-D," concluded Dr Janjic.

An Australian scientist verified that the levels of herbicide were "horrendous".

The Macic's solicitor estimates it may be "a couple of years" before the case is heard; other families in the street have been similarly affected.

Do you live near a substation?

## No Food Please, We're British

The Thatcher Government is proposing to subsidize British farmers not to produce food in a bid to cut the European food mountains, which cost A\$500 million a year to store. The proposal is part of Mrs Thatcher's plan to cut food subsidies - by paying farmers to cut their land devoted to cereals or beef herds by 20%.

One problem is that only the least productive land is likely to be set aside. This may even regenerate marginal land, but it won't reduce the cereal glut.

The scheme will primarily benefit wealthy farmers with large land holdings. Some farmers are already cultivating extra acres so they can be paid to set them aside again.

## Wave Power in Bali Too

Bali will soon have the world's first commercial wave power station. The Norwegian company *Norwave* is building and paying for the station, which will generate one megawatt of power.

The electricity will cost *Norwave* 9.4 cents per unit, though it will sell to the Balinese for 22.5 cents a unit - still considerably cheaper than current electricity costs. The contract to sell electricity will be for four years only, after which time *Norwave* will hand the station over to Bali.

*Norwave* says the device is best suited to coastal communities and islands using low amounts of power not linked to (or wanting not to remain linked to) a main grid.



## MOUSE PATENTED

The U.S. Government has approved a patent for a genetically altered mouse sub-species in the first patent to be issued for an animal. It was granted to Harvard University for a new type of mouse 'endowed' with a gene disorder to make it useful for cancer-related research.

-AP

## Red-Back May Be a Blow-In



The infamous red-back spider may be a recent immigrant who first sailed to Australia last century.

They were first described in 1870 - following 82 years of white settlement - after about 200 other Australian spider species were already reported. They would have been noticed sooner if they were common last century, according to Dr Robert Raven, curator of spiders at Queensland museum.

They probably arrived through the north Queensland ports of Bowen and Rockhampton, where they were first sighted.

The red-back appeared in New Zealand a few years ago and is colonising there as well. It is a close relative of the notorious black widow family.

An antivenene was discovered in 1956, after at least 13 Australians died from red-back bites, which require about 200 treatments each year.

### New Spiders

Dr Raven says a close relative of the redback, the less venomous brown widow, arrived in Australia recently and is colonising here, as is the Fiddle-back, another relative from America that arrived some time last decade.

Up to three people a week in eastern Australia are being bitten by a mystery spider that causes excruciating pain, deep skin-death and permanent scars.

According to Dr Struan Sutherland, venom expert from the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, serious reactions include shock, prostration and severe diarrhoea; one patient developed kidney problems and died. Most necrotic bites have occurred in Victoria.

Dr Sutherland says two spiders - a type of wolf spider [*genus Lycos*] and the white-tailed spider [*Lampona cylindrata*] are suspected. The latter spider is commonly found in bedrooms and gardens.

## Antarctic Nuclear Tests?

Israel tested three nuclear devices in the Norwegian sector of Antarctica in cooperation with Norway and South Africa, according to an Egyptian Government newspaper.

*Al-Ahram* said the first test - in September 1979 - was in Queen Maud Land (Norwegian Antarctic Territory claimed by the Nazis in WWII). South Africa allegedly assisted in this detonation; the second test was on March 5th, 1986 and the third was on December 3rd that year, according to an unsourced front-page article by its military editor.

The article said the U.S. and the Soviet Union monitored the explosions, but Norway announced that these seismic readings resulted from avalanches.

In the last two tests, 1,150 Israeli civilian and military personnel were sent to the Norwegian Antarctic sector, following the signing of a secret agreement with Norway and South Africa in 1985. They travelled on a ship bearing the Liberian flag owned by the Israeli shipping company Zim.

South Africa sent 260 personnel and Norway 670 in a declared 'exploration expedition'.

### South African Bomb

In late December 1986 *The Observer* reported that South Africa was building an Antarctic airstrip on Marion Island to prepare the site for nuclear tests.

"South Africa probably exploded a nuclear test device in the area in 1979 and the airstrip is very likely to have military implications," said British nuclear expert Mr Frank Barnaby, ex-director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Mr Barnaby believed the island could be a missile test site for conventional and nuclear warheads. *The Observer* claimed Israeli and South African military repeatedly visited the island over two years.

Mordechai Vanunu, Israeli nuclear technician recently jailed for 18 years, told the *Sunday Times* Israeli nuclear scientists made regular trips to South Africa.

The *Al-Ahram* report said Israel has now ceased activity in Antarctica.



## Soils Ain't Soils

A new study shows that conventional farms lose four times more topsoil each year than organic farms.

A joint study by the US Department of Agriculture and the University of Maine focused on two adjoining farms - one practised crop rotation and used green manure while the other used artificial fertilisers. Both grew mainly wheat.

Over thirty-seven years the conventional (chemical) farm lost 21 centimetres of topsoil while the organic farm only lost 5cm. After fifty years all the topsoil on the 'chemical' farm will have disappeared.

The conventional farm loses almost three times more soil yearly than is naturally replaced, unlike topsoil on the organic farm.

The study also showed that the organic farmer needs to plough less often since the green manure crop fertilises the soil, whereas the conventional farmer has to plough during winter to apply inorganic fertilisers. Ploughing damages the soil structure and increases topsoil loss.

### Green Manure

As green manure crops (lucerne, legume, mustard etc) grow they protect topsoil from the force of rain and wind. Ploughing them in provides humus (organic matter) to the soil, reducing water runoff.

In Australia average farm topsoil loss is 20 tonnes per acre per year and we have lost half our topsoil since European colonisation.

- Thanks to Nature, Vol 330, p370

## DEMOCRACY TAKES A FIJIAN HOLIDAY

*Dr Timoci Bavadra, whose Fijian government was overthrown in a coup last year, explains why democracy in that country may have been lost for a long time.*

“When we assembled in Melbourne for the inaugural conference of South Pacific Progressive Parties, I could not help but notice that half of the parties present operate in undemocratic countries.

There were eight countries represented at the conference, with a party from each. Four came from Melanesia, two from Polynesia and one each from Australia and New Zealand...

The unstable and impermanent nature of coalition governments in Port Moresby, coupled with the rising involvement of the Indonesian military in the country's political process is an alarming development in our region. And half of New Guinea's land mass is occupied by the Indonesians, denying the indigenous Melanesian majority in West Papua any hope of democratic decision-making over their own affairs.

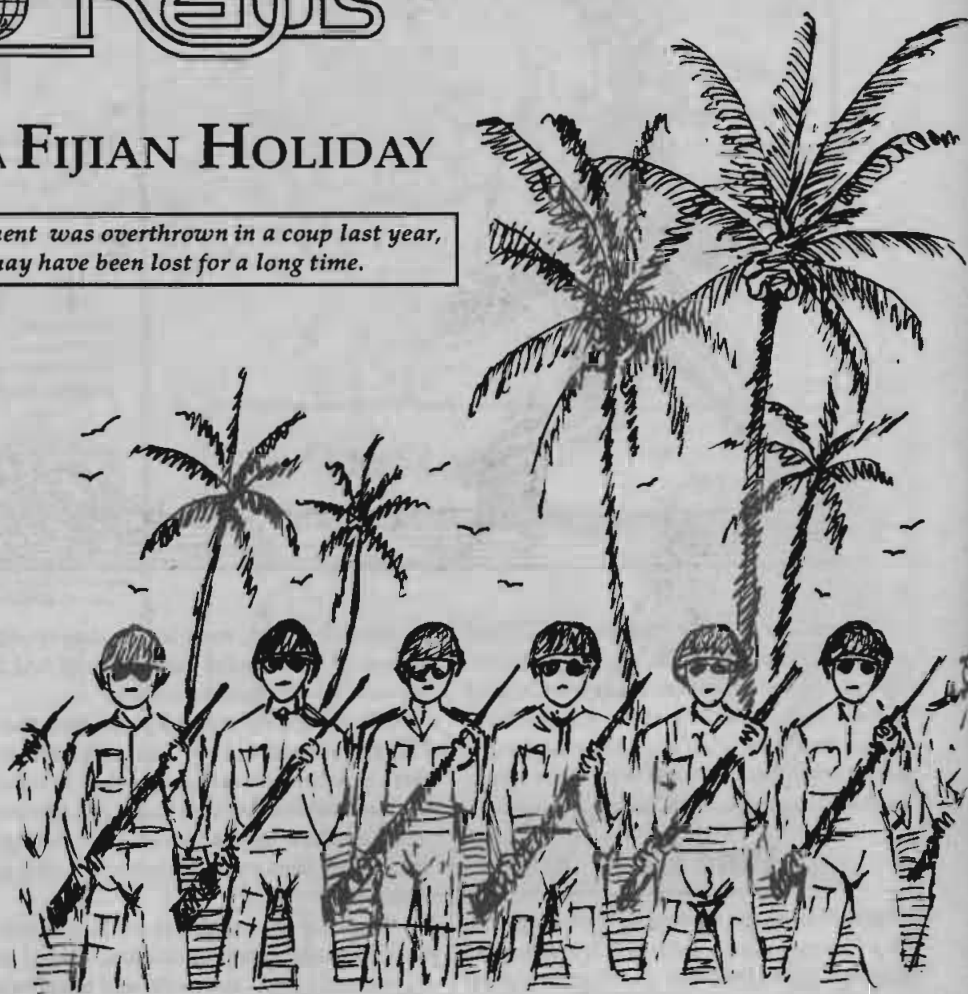
Looking east to Polynesia the situation is no better. Western Samoa and Tonga are autocracies in which clan chiefs constitutionally dominate the political process, to the exclusion of commoners.

A number of other parties have shown interest in our new regional organisation, particularly those from French Polynesia, Vanuatu and Palau. Again though, only Vanuatu is a sovereign democracy. In Palau the people and their leaders have been subject to the most extreme harassment by the Americans, while French Polynesia remains subject to colonial occupation.

### First Pacific Coup?

Injected into this scenario on May 14 last year was the Fiji coup. It was the Pacific's first coup, and as such its fallout is widespread and potentially tragic.

At the Melbourne conference, the Fiji issue was viewed as the most important issue facing the region. People are genuinely fearful that their own tenuous hold on democracy, or at least stability, could be shattered by forces in their own country choosing to follow the examples set by Sitiveni Rabuka. At present most of this concern is focused on PNG.



Even before the coup, Fiji was unusual in the Pacific in having a relatively large, disciplined and well trained army. That army has increased to the point where it can now deploy 6,000 troops in just 24 hours.

For Brigadier Rabuka and other military leaders, Indonesia is a model of social control where the army operates at every level of society and in effect substitutes as a political party. In Indonesia, the army program is based on the concept of *Dwi Fungsi*, which translates as “two functions”. At every level of civilian society there is a parallel military structure so that military officers intervene directly in civil matters. The Command for Restoration of Security and Order uses all of these officers as part of a security/intelligence network throughout the country.

To further increase this control the army operates a program called *Abri Masak Desi* - “army enters village” - through which soldiers are directly used in civilian construction, aid and business projects at the village level.

In December, Brigadier Rabuka announced his new government, giving himself the key defence and security portfolio of Home Affairs. He also placed himself in charge of the newly established Army Auxiliary Unit.

The Army Auxiliary Unit relates directly to the Indonesian army's *Abri Masak Desi*. Troops appear in villages with construction and other projects. The unit also operates businesses. Many wear plain clothes and fulfil a surveillance role as well. The army is in effect cutting across the influence of the chiefs to establish its own power base.

In Fiji it is already difficult to determine whether a project is civilian or military. Town and council elections have been suspended. There is no consultation with the elected representatives of the people.

The army is not planning a short stay in power - it is reconstructing society to give the military long-standing and pervasive control, a development that militates strongly against the return of democracy.”

## Brainwashees Sue CIA

Eight Canadians have brought the CIA to trial over medical experiments conducted on them in the 1950s and '60s. The experiments were part of a program called MK-ULTRA and were conducted in Montreal by famous Canadian psychiatrist Dr Ewen Cameron at the Allan Memorial Institute.

The plaintiffs are former medical and psychiatric patients who were referred to Dr Cameron for "therapy", but were instead subjected to various experimental brainwashing techniques including repeated injections of LSD, heavy electroshock, deep sleep therapy and a form of memory wiping called "psychic driving" - in which tapes containing negative suggestions were played for weeks on end.

In 1948 Dr Cameron was at Nuremberg, helping to write a code of ethics for medical experiments in the wake of revelations of Nazi experiments at the Nuremberg war trials. He was approached by Mr Allen Dulles (then director of the CIA) to help with the psychological examination of Rudolf Hess.

Dr Cameron died in 1967 at the age of 66 while mountain climbing. He was paid \$97,000 by the CIA. Documents uncovered by *The Toronto Star* show that the Canadian Government funded secret brainwashing experiments by his colleague. Documents obtained by the Canadians' lawyer show that Dr Cameron applied directly to the CIA for funding.

## Cocaine Contras Caught



A former drug-running pilot now serving a 28-year sentence in a U.S. gaol has testified about long-standing links between Florida-based drug smugglers flying loads out of Colombia and the US-backed Contra rebels.

The disclosures before the Senate Foreign Relations sub-committee indicate CIA involvement in cocaine trading operations after its aid to the Contras was stopped by the US Congress.

The pilot, Gary Betzner, got into drug-running in the early 1980s and claims one of his earliest contacts, a part-Colombian helicopter pilot named Richard Healey, helped the Contras and brought heroin and cocaine to the US.

Both pilots ferried grenades, grenade-launchers and ship-mines to the Contras through the Ilopanga Air Force Base in El Salvador. From there they flew to Colombia and picked up about 3,000 kgs of marijuana to bring back to the US.

### Free Market Traders

Betzner said that a year later the now-convicted smuggler George Morales had asked Betzner to help him out of his drug indictment by running guns and ammunition to the Contras and bringing back unspecified contraband. Morales told him he'd "made a deal with the CIA".

He started flying M-60 machine guns, M-16 automatic rifles and C-4 plastic explosive to Costa Rica in 1984. On each return trip he brought back cocaine.

US Army Southern Commander General Paul Gordon previously told the sub-committee there were "fairly sizeable marijuana operations on the southern front in Nicaragua, some involving the Contras, some not."

He said if someone wanted to organise an armed undertaking "the easiest place to get the money and the guns is in the drug world."

## UK DataBase In Place

The British Government's Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) is combining all health insurance records and social security benefits into a massive computerised database costing £1.6 billion.

The Social Services Secretary may give one of two American computer companies - Computer Science Corporation or Electronic Data Systems - the £100 million-a-year contract.

Electronic Data Systems is a subsidiary of General Motors and was investigated in 1986 by the immigration service after *The Guardian* published details of a company memo urging US staff to lie when entering Britain in order to work without permits.

Whoever gets the contract, nearly a quarter of the 83,000 DHSS staff will be made redundant.

The Society of Civil and Public Servants (SCPS) has condemned the program for its "Big Brother" aspects. The program incorporates a network of 30,000 computer terminals in DHSS offices linked to a central computer. The system's hardware is being provided by ICL and the cabling by British Telecom.

"An informal relationship between the police and the DHSS already exists for the exchange of information which relates to fraud cases. To establish a formal interchange relationship would be one simple step," the SCPS said last November when the scheme was announced.

## Southeast Asian Database in Oz

The Australian National University (ANU) has been funded by the U.N. to compile a biographical database for Southeast Asia. Some Southeast Asian countries are being invited to provide information.

The Southeast Asia Biographical Database Project is developing a system with which researchers can call up data on topics such as the number and identity of people from an area who joined certain political parties, etc - information that would be of particular interest to police and intelligence organizations.

The project began in 1985 at the ANU's research school of Pacific Studies.

# Running On Empty

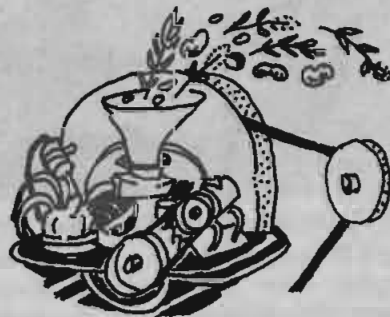
Australia's oil supplies are set to run out in the middle of the next decade, making exponential rises in petrol prices unavoidable - perhaps even desirable in terms of ecological sanity.

According to a Federal report released in March, methanol-fuelled cars are the best alternative for the near-future transition from petrol. Ford (US) is completing a line of Flexible Fuelled Vehicles (FFVs) which can run on pure methanol, gasoline or a mixture of the two. Optic sensor fuel injection technology makes it possible to run them on any combination of methanol and petrol from a single fuel tank. FFVs are designed to wean people painlessly away from petrol.

## Cleaner Fuel

Methanol (methyl or 'wood alcohol') can be produced from cellulose but is commercially extracted from natural gas, so world prices are expected to remain low for a long time. Methanol releases fewer toxins into the atmosphere than petrol when burned - its main by-products are water and carbon monoxide.

The Californian Energy Commission is opening up a chain of methanol service stations and is ordering about 5,000 Ford FFVs. The Bank of America has used a fleet of 300 methanol vehicles for years, and the Japanese Government is about to begin a trial of 300 cars. Volkswagen is also developing an experimental model.



## Viable Now

No methanol is produced in Australia at present, but BHP claims it can produce the fuel for 13 cents per litre - or 23 cents for the same energy given by a litre of petrol. This means that methanol could be retailed today for roughly the same price as a litre of petrol - and while our real oil revenue is dropping daily, Australia still has large reserves of natural gas. 80% of Australia's largest oil reserves, in Victoria's Gippsland Basin, are gone. BHP and Esso are spending \$238 million to extract oil which would only last the nation 54 days - some of the last known traces of Bass Strait oil.

A world-scale methanol plant could be designed and built in Australia within four years according to the Federal report, which encourages the introduction of methanol fuel as fast as possible.

# New Euro Order (Again)

Since the dawn of the Common Market, calls for a United States of Europe have never been louder. The European Commission has released a massive study proposing a genuine single market with no internal national borders by 1992 for the whole of Europe.

Instead of 12 markets there would be one domestic market and one passport for all 320 million Europeans, with common regulations and industrial standards (and monopolies) for all.

A single financial market, taxation, banking and insurance system would make it possible to pay bills with *European Currency Units* throughout the continent. The Brussels plan calls for at least 60% of TV programming to be of EEC origin, with common codes of censorship and advertising.

11,000 companies submitted 6,000 pages to The European Challenge 1992 report, which has been criticised for a lack of supporting evidence. It claims these measures will create 5 million jobs and expand the economy by \$A437 billion.

Certain regions and industrial centres are expected to lose out badly and member governments have so far approved only about a quarter of the 'Free Market' report's 300 proposals. Removal of customs and passport controls is causing hostility in Britain and elsewhere as it would permit free transfer of plant, animal and human diseases, terrorists, illegal immigrants and drugs throughout Europe.

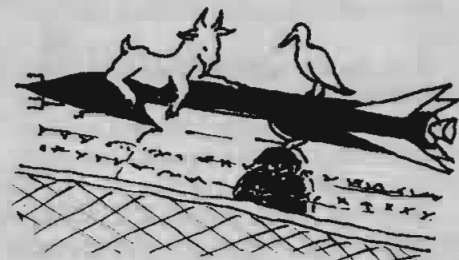
# Greenham Is a Common!

Greenham Common, site of occupancy battles between women peace protesters and 96 Cruise missiles since 1983, has been declared an open common by a British Crown Court judge.

The women can do what they like on the common after the ruling that local residents have free access under medieval law. The Ministry of Defence had ignored the fact that the Berkshire base was on common land when they erected the 15-km perimeter fence, and over 1,000 protesters have had trespassing convictions overturned by the judge.

A lawyer acting in a successful appeal for two Greenham veterans argued that the Military Lands Act of 1892 specifically prevents Ministers interfering with access rights to a common. Hundreds of women may seek compensation for wrongful arrest and imprisonment as a result.

Justice Rait ruled that then-Secretary of State Michael Heseltine had exceeded his powers in 1985 when he drew up by-laws permitting police or troops to arrest protesters who enter the base and shoot those who refuse to leave.



Fifty local people also have rights to collect firewood and graze sheep, geese and ducks on the base and even damage the runway if they choose to 'dig for gravel'.



# 'White Rose' Imprisoned

An Anti-Nuclear 'Monkey-Wrencher' is Denied International Law Precedents

A U.S. woman has been imprisoned for single-handedly destroying an experimental global nuclear missile station.

Katya Komisaruk, 29, was sentenced to 5 years jail and US\$500,000 "restitution" in January on charges of sabotage and destruction of government property.

Early on the morning of June 2nd 1987, the Detroit business graduate hiked through hills to the three-metre chain link barbed wire fence surrounding Vandenberg Air Force Base in Southern California. Carrying her teddy bear, Judas Macabaeus, and a backpack containing tools, padlock, spray-paints, maps, box of biscuits, whistle and bouquet of flowers, she approached the top-secret floodlit communications centre of NAVSTAR (Navigation System Time & Ranging) - a crucial guidance system due to begin full operation in 1991.

## Unguarded Secrets

Finding the main gates of the Air Force's third-largest base *open and unguarded*, she left the biscuit box and a note which read; "I have no gun, you must have lots. Let's not be hasty, no cheap shots. Have a cookie and a nice day." Padlocking the gates behind her, she hoped "they would be delayed defusing the cookie box." Following clearly-marked signs reading NAVSTAR, she broke into the main computer building past notices reading "Electronic alarm system in operation".

Katya climbed a tower to the main radar dish and antennae and destroyed them with drill and hammer. She climbed down, still seeing no-one, and, after spraying international law slogans on the walls, spilled hundreds of computer

microchips over the floor before dancing all over them. She emptied fire extinguishers into equipment before turning it on to complete her two-hour rampage.

Still no-one came. "Finally I got bored and was tired, so I went to the bathroom, fixed my hair, washed my face and then packed my tools and left," she said.

## Turned Herself In

Katya hitchhiked home and rang the air force base to confess a few hours later, after blowing her whistle in triumph. She was arrested by the FBI at a press conference the next day at which she stated,

"NAVSTAR is a very dangerous aspect of our first-strike policy. It's better to destroy a few machines than let those machines help murder millions of people. I feel really concerned about the terrible similarity between the state of my government now and the state of Germany during the Third Reich." She had become frustrated with attending rallies and writing letters with no apparent result.

"Since I've been a little girl I've planned to have a child. But what good is it if my child is going to perish in a nuclear blast...?"

"I decided that the thing to do to prepare for the child, to be responsible, was to make a really strong statement for peace and physically disarm some of the system so the world would be a bit safer and I could raise my child with a clear conscience."

Released on \$10,000 bail, she hoped to base her defence on the Nuremberg Principle - initiated by the US against the NAZIs in WWII - which states that a citizen has the duty to interfere with their government if it is preparing for a war of aggression or crime against humanity.



She called her action the White Rose Action after a group of German university students who protested against Hitler, who were caught and executed.

## Defenceless

However, in a disturbing turn of events her judge ruled that Katya couldn't explain her motives to the jury as part of her defence - nor describe the function of the **FIRST-STRIKE** equipment she had destroyed - nor explain why she believed destroying the mainframe was valid under international law.

She has been refused bail and waits for an appeal to be heard, which may take 10 months.

"I am frightened," she said, "not so much about being hurt physically in prison, but afraid of becoming less trusting, less warm, less open, just in order to survive."

For info or support contact the *Katya Komisaruk Defence Collective*, 1716 Felton St, San Francisco Ca 94134.

## The New Hot Line

US-Soviet relations have thawed remarkably in the wake of the recent summits - a new computer link, the brainchild of Democratic Senator Sam Nunn, connects Washington and Moscow, replacing the old *Hot Line* set up in 1963.

Computer messages are sent daily between the State Department and the Kremlin. This is a joint effort by the superpowers to prevent miscalculation and misinterpretation of data that might accidentally trigger a nuclear confrontation.

Many war strategy experts believe

that accidental launches, unauthorized launches by deranged individuals, missile accidents and nuclear terrorism are a greater nuclear danger than deliberate attack. The first task of the Nuclear Risk Reduction Centre in Washington will be to exchange information crucial to carrying out the INF treaty. Data will be sent on exact numbers and locations of missiles, as well as details of on-site verification visits by Russians inspecting American sites and vice versa - this makes mass de-nuclearisation a real possibility.

